

REMARKS

A Request for Continued Examination (RCE) was filed for this application on August 2, 2006. The RCE requested the Director to consider the Response filed under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116 on June 29, 2006 as the Submission under 37 C.F.R. § 1.114. This Preliminary Amendment supplements the June 29, 2006 Response.

This paper makes a minor change to claims 1, 5 and 6. In particular, the phrase “provides control” in the second to last line of claims 1 and 5 is amended to “controls,” and the phrase “providing control” in the second line of claim 6 is amended to “controls.” The change is made for grammatical purposes only. It is not made for any substantial reason related to patentability.

Additionally, this paper adds new claim 7 to this application. Support for new claim 7 is found throughout the specification and drawings, including for example at pages 15–16 and at Figure 6. New claim 7 is believed patentable over the applied references because of the deficiencies in those references that are discussed in the Remarks section of the June 29, 2006 Response.

The amendments set forth in this paper do not add new matter to this application.

CONCLUSION

This application is believed to be in condition for allowance. An early and favorable examination on the merits is requested. In the event that a telephone conference would facilitate the examination of this application in any way, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the number provided.

While no extension of time is believed necessary for entry of this Amendment, should an extension of time be required for the timely submission of this Amendment, such extension is hereby petitioned.

THE COMMISSIONER IS HEREBY AUTHORIZED TO CHARGE ANY ADDITIONAL FEES WHICH MAY BE REQUIRED FOR THE TIMELY CONSIDERATION OF THIS AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 AND 1.17, OR CREDIT ANY OVERPAYMENT TO DEPOSIT ACCOUNT NO. 13-4500, ORDER NO. 1232-5267.

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Respectfully submitted,
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